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Y.N Antoniades & Sons Ltd
CYPRUS SHAMI GOATS



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At full maturity the males will weigh between 90-130 kilos.



Selective breeding leads to an average of 2.5 kids in each pregnancy

The Damascus (Shami) goat at the Antoniades family farm

The Antoniades family farm was established in 1929. It is located to the south of the island of Cyprus near the village of Pissouri, some 35 km from the city of Limassol. It is established on a low hill area (altitude 50 m from sea level) and prevailing temperatures in the area range between 5 and 20 °C in the winter and 28 to 40 °C in the summer. Humidity in the summer months ranges between 40 and 60 %.

The unit in 2004 comprised of 2000 milking goats that were milked twice daily at equal milking intervals (at 5:00 and 17:00 h). The management system utilizes not only the seasonal character of the breed but also artificial induction of estrus during the anestrus period of the year. The main purpose of the practice is to provide the market with a constant supply of milk to the processing plant for the conversion of milk into the traditional 'halloumi' cheese and pasteurized milk. No artificial insemination is practiced on the farm. Mating is carried out through selected sires and the system used for the identification of parentage relies on a group mating scheme of assigning one male to 25 females.

The farm practices no suckling. All kids are removed from their dams immediately after birth and are transferred to artificial rearing units that are designed to provide colostrum (for two days) and reconstituted milk replacer thereafter ad libitum for a period of 45 ± 3 days at which age kids are weaned. Creep feed and alfalfa hay are provided ad libitum during this period. Fresh water is available through automatic waterers. Following weaning kids are transferred to rearing-fattening pens where they are fed on concentrates and barley hay ad libitum until the age of 120 days. Sexes are segregated at that age and males and females, selected for breeding (replacements), are separated and housed in lots of 25 to 30 animals. Feeding is again at will on both concentrates and barley hay. By four months of age female kids reach an average weight of 30-34 kg and males 33-36 kg. All animals selected for breeding at 4 months of age enter an intensive immunization and veterinary control program. The mature (adult) body weight of the does ranges from 60 to 80 kg and of the bucks from 80 to 100 kg.



A kid nursing from the replacement mother.



45 days old.

Growth data of Damascus goats

Trait	Males	Females	Singles	Twins	Multiples
Birth weight (kg)	4.7	4.4	5.1	4.5	3.9
Weaning weight (kg)	18.8	16.6	19.6	16.9	15.9
Pre-weaning growth (kg)	0.199	0.175	0.207	0.178	0.173
15 week weight (kg)	29.2	24.6	28.9	26.6	25.3
Post-weaning growth (kg)	0.154	0.118	0.155	0.140	0.133
Yearly weight (kg)	60	55	-	-	-
Adult weight (kg)	75	65	-	-	-

Young females are introduced to bucks early in pubertal life when they exhibit first estrus (between 220 and 270 days of age) and continue breeding for an average of 6 years after which they are sold to other farmers or are utilized for meat. Bucks begin their reproductive life at circa 9 months of age and remain in the production system for a maximum of two years. Related mating and consanguinity is minimized by separating males from females and allowing mating between related individuals beyond third degree relatives.

Reproductive data of Damascus Goats by year and parity

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003
N	102	336	387	459
Mean	2.62	2.39	2.36	2.27
SD	0.83	0.77	0.75	0.73
Lactation No	1	2	3	4+
N	80	168	611	427
Mean	1.92	2.09	2.31	2.60
SD	0.57	0.63	0.72	0.81

All goats are milked immediately following birth and the first milk (colostrum) is fed to the kids. They are subsequently milked for 305 days twice daily unless daily production drops below one kg per day when they are milked once a day. A completed lactation is one that lasted 305 days unless they become pregnant and they are removed from the milk producing flock 60 days prior to parturition. No extension is carried out for shorter lactations, and longer lactations are standardized to 305 days.



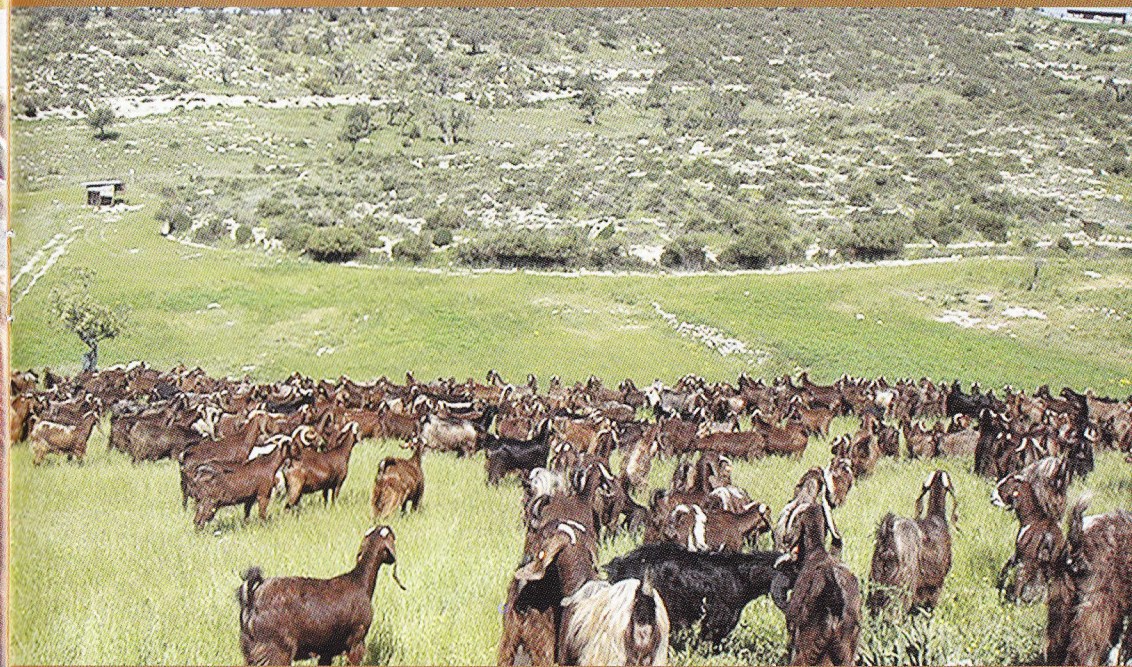
Our champion with 8.5 liters of milk per day.



At 4 months they reach 35kg so they can be sold for slaughter where they fetch premium prices.



Many of our Goats rich over 1000 liters of milk in 305 days.



We have supplied Cyprus Shami Goats to large commercial farms and government breeding center in over 15 countries.